the lands as are absolutely necessary to meet the requirements of the Excise Department may be reserved and the rest removed from the reserve list. In places, where date trees are abundant, the lands applied for, for cultivation may be inspected and if trees are unfit for tapping they may be given over for cultivation.

(2) Lands containing less than 50 trees may be ordered to be disposed of by the Revenue authorities without consulting the Excise Department.

(3) When applications are made for lands containing date trees, the present practice is to fix Rs. 2 per tree as *malki* and to recover the amount from the applicant. This causes great hardship. A lump sum amount may be fixed for all the trees standing thereon.

Mr. H. V. Rangasami.—Discretion may be vested with the Revenue Department and not with the Excise Department.

Mr. Srinivasa Rao.—Excise revenue is a fluctuating item and greater attention ought to be paid to Land Revenue which is of a permanent nature.

Reply of Government.—Under consideration.

SUBJECT NO. 44.

Decline of the people owing to excess of drink.

Mr. Siddappa, Mysore taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Government with the intention of reducing drunkenness among the people have increased the tax on toddy-yielding trees. But, drunkenness has not gone down. The number of shops may be reduced leaving one for each hobli.

Mr. Anantiah.—Local option and reduction of shops are means for reducing drunkenness.

Mr. Rangasami.—Local option may be given and prohibition of sale to women and children and reduction in the hours of sale and in the number of shops may be made.

Mr. C. Vasudeva Rao.—Total abolition is impossible but some restriction may be imposed.

Mr. Ramanna.—Government must adopt some means of preventing the increase of drunkenness.

Mr. H. Krishnasastri.—Government should see that facilities for drink are not provided, that jatra shops are closed and that arrack shops are not opened in small villages.

Reply of Government.—As far as possible effective measures are introduced. The people have to be educated. Any practical scheme may be suggested for consideration.

NOTE.—*A committee of the Representative Assembly members was formed and they were asked to submit a note before the next session.*